

AIT, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is jointly organizing a webinar on:

CIRCULAR ECONOMY & SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

DATE & TIME: Thursday, 5th May 2022
from 14:30 to 16:00 hrs. (Bangkok time)

BACKGROUND

With the looming threat of climate change, loss of biodiversity and habitat destruction, global organizations, business leaders, and activists from around the world are coming together to create opportunities for real change through the development of Circular Economy (CE) solutions that maximize value out of materials through the repairing, reusing and repurposing concept.

With the rapid speed of urbanization, business leaders, investors and governments have a responsibility now more than ever, to ensure that comprehensive policy and planning are in place to ensure a solid circular economy infrastructure.

This 1.5-hour webinar will dive into three case studies in Thailand, China, and South Korea, and will create a clearer understanding of the possible applications of a Circular Economy in infrastructure development, helping to identify policy planning and regulatory aspects to materialize Circular Economy infrastructure and the sustainability framework in Thailand.

HIGHLIGHTS

Challenges faced by the region to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2030 and to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Innovations introduced by regional governments through capacity building and infrastructure building to allow systemic change that would lead Thailand towards a Circular Economy.

Lessons learned by the three (3) countries to tackle plastic pollution, waste management, and transportation.

OBJECTIVES

- To broaden knowledge and create a clear understanding on possible applications of a Circular Economy in infrastructure development;
- To help identifications of policy, planning and regulatory aspects to materialize Circular Economy in infrastructure; and
- To highlight key success factors and driving forces that drive Circular Economy practices and policy change.

WEBINAR AGENDA

- 14:30-14:40 hrs. **Opening Session**
Ms. Elisa Tonda, Head of Consumption and Production Unit, UNEP
Dr. Naveed Anwar, Vice President for Knowledge Transfer, AIT
- 14:40-14:50 hrs. **Keynote Speech**
International good practice principles on Sustainable Infrastructure
Mr. Rowan Palmer,
Lead, Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Team, UNEP
- 14:50-15:20 hrs. **Case Studies**
1. Transition to Electric Mobility and Renewable Energy in the Republic of Korea
Dr. Hoseok Kim, Chief Research Fellow
Korea Environment Institute
 2. Waste Management Reform for Thailand Circular Economy
Dr. Sujitra Vassanadumrongdee, Senior Researcher
Environmental Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University
 3. Green Buildings in Shenzhen, China
Ms. Yichuan Song, Research Specialist
Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning
- 15:20-15:40 hrs. **Panel Discussion**
- **Dr. Hoseok Kim**, Chief Research Fellow
Korea Environment Institute
 - **Dr. Sujitra Vassanadumrongdee**, Senior Researcher
Environmental Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University
 - **Ms. Yichuan Song**, Research Specialist
Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning
 - **Dr. Mushtaq Memon**, Programme Management Officer, UNEP
- Guiding questions:
- Policies, Regulations and Practices: Perspectives, Challenges and Key Success Factors
 - Capacity Development and Knowledge Transfer
 - Incentivization and Financing for Sustainable Infrastructure
- 15:40-15:55 hrs. **Q&A**
- 15:55-16:00 hrs. **Closing**
Dr. Christopher Garnier, Executive Director
AIT Extension, AIT
- Moderator:** **Dr. Orathai Pongruktham**
Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)



REGISTRATION QR CODE

<https://bit.ly/3uZuUgt>

CONTACT PERSON

Narumon Wangnai
Senior Program Specialist, AIT Extension, Asian Institute of Technology
Email: wangnai@ait.asia

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Speakers Profile



Ms. Elisa Tonda

Head, Consumption and Production Unit
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Elisa Tonda is the Head of the Consumption and Production Unit in UNEP's Economy Division. The main goal of the Unit is the promotion of sustainable production and consumption policies, practices and initiatives through the engagement of governments, the business community and civil society organizations. The Unit has also played a leading role in strengthening UNEP's contribution to the greening of global value chains, and is currently coordinating the development of several initiatives in the domain of circular economy. Elisa has a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Polytechnic of Turin, Italy and in Sustainable Development from the University of London, UK.



Dr. Naveed Anwar

Vice President for Knowledge Transfer
Asian Institute of Technology

Dr. Naveed Anwar assumed the position of Vice President (Knowledge Transfer) on April 1, 2019. The VPKT oversees the new Entrepreneurship Center, technology transfer policy at AIT, commercialization of research, and industrial relations. He also works with the VPAA on making the curriculum more relevant. Prior to assuming the office of Vice President, Dr. Anwar was Executive Director of AIT Solutions as well as Affiliated Faculty in Structural Engineering, performing outreach, consulting and developing solutions with the business sector in our core strength and innovative areas. He received his PhD from AIT in 2004.



Dr. Mushtaq Memon

Programme Management Officer
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Dr. Mushtaq Memon is the Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in UNEP's Asia Pacific Office located in Bangkok. He is supporting resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, green economy, green financing, sustainable public procurement, sustainable tourism, sustainable industries and various areas for Asia and the Pacific. He is also implementing EU funded SWITCH-Asia Phase 2 component by UNEP to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production in the region. He got his Masters in Project Management and National Development from University of Bradford in UK, and Doctorate in Environmental and Resource Economics and Management at Hiroshima University in Japan.



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Mr. Rowan Palmer

Programme Management Officer
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Rowan Palmer is a Programme Management Officer at UNEP's Resources and Markets Branch in Geneva, where he leads the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership and coordinates UNEP's implementation of UNEA Resolution 4/5 on sustainable infrastructure. Prior to joining UNEP Rowan worked as an environmental manager for large-scale transportation infrastructure projects in his home province of British Columbia, Canada. Rowan holds a Bachelor's degree in International Development and Environment Studies from McGill University in Montreal and a Master's degree in International Relations from Instituto de Empresa in Madrid.



Dr. Hoseok Kim

Chief Research Fellow
Korea Environment Institute

Dr. Hoseok Kim is the Chief Research Fellow at the Korea Environment Institute (KEI) and a member of the GGKP Research Committee on Metrics and Indicators. His primary research field is environmental economics and sustainable development, with a focus on policy analysis and planning. Prior to his current position, Dr. Kim was Head of Green Growth Methodology Development Unit and a Principal Economist at GGKI, where he developed methodological tools for its Green Growth Planning program, including green growth indicators and assessment frameworks. In 2008, he served as climate policy expert to the Prime Minister's Office.



Dr. Sujitra Vassanadumrongdee

Senior Researcher, Environmental Research Institute
Chulalongkorn University

Dr. Sujitra is interested in research related to zero-waste management policies and practices. She has experience in driving CU's Chula Zero Waste Initiative, where she supported other organizations to achieve zero-waste goals. Dr. Sujitra is the head of a newly established Research Cluster on Microplastic and Plastic Waste starting from March 2020. She earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Economics, Hiroshima University. Recently, Dr. Sujitra serves as a National Sub-Committee on Green Growth Strategy under NESDC; A Committee Member on Improving Waste Managements in Schools under Ministry of Education.



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Ms. Yichuan Song

Research Specialist, Ecological Environmental Management and Policy Department
Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning (CAEP)

Yichuan Song is a Research Specialist in the Ecological Environmental Management and Policy Department of the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning (CAEP). Her research focuses on environmental planning, environmental policy and green finance. Yichuan holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Planning and Management from Nanjing University and a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Michigan.



Dr. Christopher Garnier

Executive Director
AIT Extension, AIT

Assuming the role of Executive Director of AIT Extension on January 1st, 2021, Dr. Garnier has a track record of delivering innovative, transformative and results-focused initiatives to multiple international entities. As a progress-driven educator, motivational leader and tireless student advocate with a passion for empowering and supporting academic communities around the world, Dr. Garnier has extensive and unparalleled leadership experience that spans roles in the military, government, business, higher education and nonprofit sectors covering the United States, Middle East, Asia Pacific and Europe. Dr. Garnier earned his Doctorate in Global Education from the prestigious University of Southern California. He also holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from USC and a Master of Science equivalency in Aeronautical Engineering from the United States Navy.



Dr. Orathai Pongruktham

Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)

Dr. Orathai Pongruktham has nearly 20 years of professional experience in academic, program management, international coordination and public-private engagement. Dr. Pongruktham has been working with a number of national and international organizations such as Prince of Songkla University, University of Mississippi, US Army Corp of Engineer, WWF, IUCN, UNESCO and UNEP on science education, natural resources management and environmental conservation. She recently worked with Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) to promote sustainable development including supporting CE under the national agenda on BCG Model and Thailand's Roadmap on Plastic Waste Management. She also works with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Climate Change Adaptation.



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